GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1118
ANSWERED ON:23.11.2007
CHILD SEX TOURISM
Pandey Dr. Laxminarayan;Tripathi Shri Chandramani

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

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(a) whether the Government is aware that child sex is being promoted at large scale in the country in the name of tourism;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the Government proposes to enact any stringent law to check growing child sex in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY)

(a),(b),(c)&(d) As per studies conducted by National Human Rights Commission and National Commission for Women, Child Sex Tourism is prevalent in India, under the cover of Pilgrim Tourism, Heritage Tourism and Coastal Tourism and is mostly found in the States of Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal and Orissa. The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 (ITPA) supplemented by the Indian Penal Code prohibits trafficking in human beings including children for purpose of prostitution and lays down severe penalties for traffickers. The ITPA is now proposed to be further amended providing for more stringent punishment for trafficking in persons including children. The Ministry of Women and Child Development conducts advocacy, awareness generation, sensitization programmes for prevention of child trafficking. The Central Advisory Committee on combating Child Prostitution headed by Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India reviews the State's activities in combating trafficking and prostitution every quarter. The Ministry of Women and Child Development also runs Swadhar Shelter Homes which provide shelter, food, clothing, emotional support, counseling, rehabilitation and other facilities to sex workers including children.